

VZCZCXYZ0000
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPS #0658 2211705
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 091705Z AUG 06
FM USOFFICE PRISTINA
TO RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 3417
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6371

UNCLAS PRISTINA 000658

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OTRA](#) [PREL](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [SR](#) [YI](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO DEMIAN SMITH

REF: BELGRADE 1255

¶1. US Office Pristina welcomes and grants country clearance to Demian Smith to visit Pristina August 14-17, 2006. The purpose of the visit is for meetings with local officials. Control Officer is Political Officer Heidi Barrachina, who can be reached at: office 381-38-549-516 ext. 3104; GSM 377-44-501-741; Serbian GSM 063-1840-036; fax 381-38-549-890.

¶2. Post will make arrangements for transportation between ABL and hotel and for official meetings during the visit. Accommodations have been confirmed at Hotel Victory, Tel# 038/543 277. The Hotel Victory accepts cash only. The room rate is Euro 69.30 a night, including breakfast.

¶3. Kosovo is a cash (Euro) economy. There are a few operating ATMs and some large stores and hotels take credit cards. Not all ATMs are reliable and personnel should use normal ATM safety precautions. TDY personnel should bring sufficient cash or travelers' checks to cover all hotel and other incidental expenses and may exchange dollars for Euros from 9:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:00pm each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 9:00am-11:30am each Thursday at the U.S. Office cashier. Only USOP accepts travelers' checks. Reverse accommodation is available at the end of the visit.

¶4. Security issues: The security situation in Kosovo is fluid and there is still risk from occasional episodes of violence; incidents of ethnic violence continue to occur. Land mines remain in some outlying areas. Civil society institutions generally do not yet meet Western standards. There is criminal activity against internationals, including purse snatching and residential break-ins and general precautions are recommended. KFOR is deployed throughout Kosovo. Electronic devices such as laptops (personal or official), PDA cell phones with cameras, and the like must be approved for use in USOP facilities by an ISSO in consultation with the RSO.

¶5. Travel to certain areas within Kosovo requires fully armored vehicles and advance RSO approval. To facilitate planning, please provide your travel itinerary to USOP before arrival, as same-day travel can be difficult to arrange. To provide appropriate access to USOP facilities, visitors must ensure all necessary security clearances are included with travel messages.

¶6. Please ensure ASEC tags are included to ensure proper distribution. Specific questions regarding security may be addressed to USOP's RSO or your control officer.

KAIDANOW